

**Chapter 9**

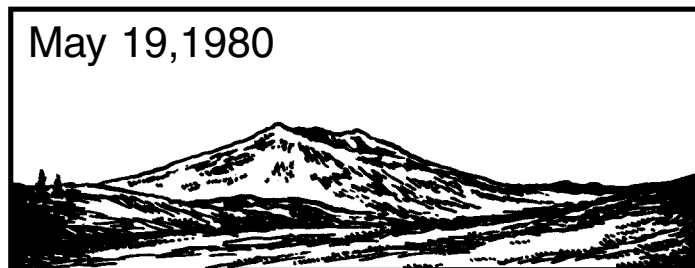
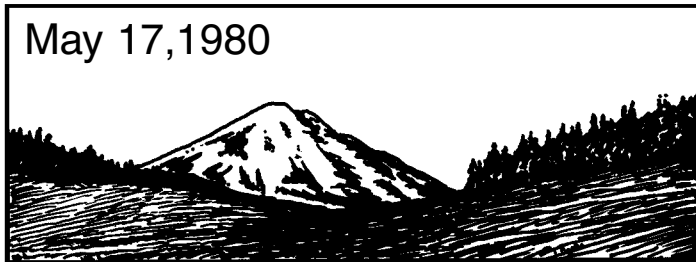
Use with Section 1

**ENRICHMENT****• What causes volcanoes?****Mount St. Helens**

You have already read that Mount St. Helens, in the Cascade Mountains in the northwestern United States, formed where two tectonic plates converge. Here you will read about when it erupted in May 1980.

Toward the end of March 1980, earthquake tremors began to shake Mount St. Helens. The tremors continued and got stronger as the months went by. By May, the mountain had developed a bulge on its north face—a bulge that got bigger every day. Then, at 8:22 in the

morning of May 18, Mount St. Helens erupted, spewing a stream of ashes, rocks, and hot gases 19 km into the air. It truly blew its top. Before it erupted, it was 2949 m high. After, it was 2549 m high. The mountain erupted again on May 25 and, from time to time, in June, July, August, October, and December of 1980 and April, June, and September, 1981. Today, Mount St. Helens is not as tall as it was before it erupted on May 18, 1980, but it's growing taller again.



1. What clues do you think scientists had that the volcano was going to erupt? \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. After it erupted on May 18, how much did the mountain change in size? \_\_\_\_\_  
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3. Since Mount St. Helens has erupted a number of times since May 1980, how might you explain the fact that it is taller now than it was after the May 18 eruption? \_\_\_\_\_  
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